

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph in the Detailed Description of the Invention with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 represents a connection between the sender **1** and a recipient **2**. The sender **1** may be, for example, an individual establishing connection to the recipient **2** via a personal computer or a server of a local area network. In addition, the sender **1** may be a device or entity which requests performance measurement information for use with its applications such as a load balancer server. The recipient **32** may similarly be an individual or part of a network of potential recipients. At a border of the recipient personal computer or network a border device **3** is positioned. The border device **3** provides information regarding the connection between the sender **1** and recipient **2** on behalf of the recipient **2** and at the same time conceals its own identity. More specifically, the border device **3** provides a response to the sender **1** including performance metrics such as the TTL and RTT regarding the connection between the border device **3** and the sender **1**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 of page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Where the border device is used in conjunction with the method described with reference to Figure 4, the border device **3** comprises substantially the same elements. However, the processor **5654** will not automatically respond to the performance measurement packet **20**, but will respond based on the predetermined rules which can be stored in the storage **52**.